

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended)

A In a sheet feeder for ~~separating one~~ feeding sheets of paper sheets piled thereon therein and ~~feeding the separated sheet to a next process, wherein~~

a sensor lever having an end thereof abutting against ~~the top of sheets~~ piled in the sheet feeder, said sensor lever being pivotable ~~swings with a~~ swinging about a pivot axis, and changes its ~~the angle of the lever changing in~~ accordance with the ~~amount~~ number of sheets in the feeder;

a support for the pivot axis of said sensor lever, said support permitting said pivot axis to move in a direction toward and away from sheets of paper in the feeder; and

whereby, when a large number of sheets are loaded in the feeder the sensor lever and the pivot ~~swinging axis moves upward together with the sensor lever in the~~ a direction of separating the sensor lever away from the pile of sheets in the feeder.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended)

A In a sheet feeder as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein a supporting member for supporting the sensor lever has~~ said support comprising an elliptic elongated hole made for fitting therein supporting the ~~swinging pivot axis of the sensor lever; and the sensor lever has a~~ comprising an abutting member

formed thereon for abutting against a ~~receiving~~ portion of the ~~supporting member~~ support to prevent the ~~swinging pivot~~ axis of the sensor lever from moving in said direction when ~~working with a decreased amount of~~ there are few sheets or no sheets piled in the feeder ~~or with no sheet~~.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

A In a sheet feeder as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein a supporting member for supporting the sensor lever has~~ said support comprising an elliptic elongated hole having an enlarged round hole portion, made for fitting therein ~~the swinging axis of the sensor lever and the swinging~~ said pivot axis of the sensor lever ~~has~~ having a noncircular section of a dimension that permits the sensor lever to pivot in said enlarged round hole portion and that ~~to prevents~~ the ~~swinging pivot~~ axis of the sensor lever from moving in into the ~~elliptic elongated hole~~ when ~~working with a decreased amount of~~ there are few sheets or no sheets piled in the feeder ~~or with no sheet~~.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

A In a sheet feeder as defined in ~~any of claims~~ claim 2, and 3, ~~wherein a sheet piling portion has~~ further comprising a concave formed in said feeder, ~~thereon~~ and a ~~lower~~ tip of the sensor lever falls in the concave ~~with~~ when there is no sheet on in the feeder ~~sheet piling portion~~.

Claim 5. (New)

In a sheet feeder as defined in claim 3, further comprising a concave formed in said feeder, and a lower tip of the sensor lever falls in the concave when there is no sheet in the feeder.

Claim 6. (New)

In a sheet feeder as defined in claim 3, wherein said noncircular pivot axis of the sensor lever fits within said elongated hole when the sensor lever is pivoted by the presence of a large number of sheets in the feeder to permit said sensor lever and pivot axis to move in a direction away from sheets of paper in the feeder.